

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Claims 6-13 have been allowed. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 14 has been added. It is submitted that claim 14 is also allowable over a combination of Yamada (US 6,141,483) and Shim (US 6,608,804) for the following reasons.

Claim 14 is patentable over the combination of Yamada and Shim, since claim 14 recites an information recording disc comprising a burst cutting area including an application identifier area for recording an application identifier, an application specific data area for recording control data, and a data length area for recording data length of the application specific data area, wherein the application identifier indicates the use of the control data. The combination of Yamada and Shim fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 14.

Yamada discloses two embodiments of a recording medium 1. The rewritable recording medium 1 has a lead-in area 22, a data area/rewritable data zone 23, a lead-out area 24 and an outer peripheral edge 25. The lead-in area 22 includes a reference signal portion 26 where a reference code is recorded, a control data portion 27, and an erasable data portion 28. The control data portion 27 stores information, such as a manufacturing date of the medium 1, a region code, a user or organization name that are given special permission, and recording conditions including recording linear speed, reproduction power, recording power and recording pulse width. (See column 7, lines 21-61).

The read-only recording medium 1 has a lead-in area 32, a data area 33 where data to be supplied to the user is recorded, and an outer peripheral edge 34. The lead-in area 32 is disclosed as having a VOF area 40, a manufacturing data area 41 containing a manufacturing date of a master of the recording medium 1, a region code area 42 containing a region code having regional data, and an area 43 having transfer permission conditions recorded therein at manufacture along with a reproduction linear speed and a reproduction power. The region code of the region code area 42 has a number of different values that can be set to correspond to any or all of six different regions in which the world is split. Depending on the values set in the region code area 42, a reproduction

apparatus 2 into which the recording medium 1 is inserted determines whether or not it is authorized to reproduce/transfer the information stored on the recording medium 1. The reproduction apparatus 2 makes this determination by comparing its region code to the region code in the region code area 42 in the lead-in area 32. (See column 8, lines 7-12, column 9, lines 3-67, and Figure 6).

The area 43 of the lead-in area 32 contains time permission condition data 44 and permission condition data 45. The time permission condition data 44 is a set time period such that when the time period has lapsed from the manufacturing date of the master of the recording medium 1 stored in the manufacturing date area 41, the information on the recording medium 1 can be reproduced/transferred by the reproduction apparatus 2 regardless of whether the region code in the reproduction apparatus 2 and the region code stored in the region code area 42 correspond. (See column 10, lines 1-10). The permission condition data 45 contains conditions for permitting reproduction/transfer of data for a specific reproduction apparatus 2, user, or organization having a coincident password or ID number regardless of whether the region code in the region code area 42 corresponds to the region code in the reproducing apparatus 2. (See column 10, lines 11-16).

Further, in another embodiment of Yamada, the data reproducing device 2 is disclosed as being capable of having the region code stored therein updated. In this embodiment, the reproduction device 2 stores a region code, a latest time when the region code has been updated, permission/non-permission data about updating the region code, and a period in which the region code can be updated. When the reproducing apparatus 2 is manufactured, its region code is temporarily set by the manufacturer. The manufacturer also sets the latest time at which the region code has been updated and the period during which the updating of the region code can occur. When a recording medium 1 is inserted into the reproduction apparatus 2, the reproducing apparatus 2 checks to determine whether or not its region code corresponds to the region code of the recording medium 1. If the two region codes do not correspond, the reproduction apparatus 2 determines whether or not it is capable of updating its region code based on the current date, the latest time when the region code was updated, and the period in which the updating of the region code is permitted. If the update is permitted, the permission/non-permission data is changed to reflect this. Then, the region code of the reproduction apparatus 2 is updated based on the region code of the recording medium 1 such that the two correspond. (See column 13, line 53 - column 14, line 65).

Based on the above discussion, it is apparent neither the rewritable recording medium 1, nor the read-only recording medium 1, of Yamada has a burst cutting area. Further, neither of these embodiments of Yamada discloses or suggests an application identifier area for recording an application identifier. Instead, the rewritable recording medium 1 and the read-only recording medium 1 have the control data portion 27 and the region code area 42, respectively, that store a region code indicating in what part of the world the medium can be reproduced, which differs from the application identifier area for recording the application identifier of claim 14. In addition, Yamada fails to disclose or suggest that either of the recording mediums 1 has a data length area for recording data length of an application specific data area. Since Yamada fails to disclose or suggest these features recited in claim 14, Shim must disclose or suggest the features in order for the combination of these references to render claim 14 obvious.

Shim discloses a disk 100 having a burst cutting area (BCA). The BCA has a BCA code structure including a BCA preamble 200, BCA information data I_{BCA} 202, an error detecting code EDC_{BCA} 204, a disk code I_{DDT} 210, an error detecting code EDC_{DDT} 212, an error correcting code EDC_{DDT} 214, and a BCA postamble 208. The error detecting code EDC_{BCA} 204 is a parity for detecting an error in the BCA information data I_{BCA} 202. The disk code I_{DDT} 210 indicates a type of the disc 100. The error detecting code EDC_{DDT} 212 is a parity for detecting an error in the disk code I_{DDT} 210. The error correcting code EDC_{DDT} 214 is a parity for correcting errors of the BCA information data I_{BCA} 202, the error detecting code EDC_{BCA} 204, the disk code I_{DDT} 210, and the error detecting code EDC_{DDT} 212. (See column 4, line 53 - column 5, line 8 and Figures 2 and 3).

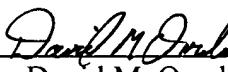
While Shim does disclose the disk 100 having a burst cut area, Shim fails to disclose or suggest that the burst cut area includes an application identifier area for recording an application identifier or a data length area for recording data length of an application specific data area as recited in claim 14. Therefore, since Shim fails to cure all of the defects of Yamada, it is apparent that the combination of Yamada and Shim fails to disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in claim 14.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroshi UEDA et al.

By



David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 45,336
Attorney for Applicants

DMO/jmj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
October 28, 2004